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In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims.

26. The method according to claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide with at least about 80% amino acid sequence identity with the polypeptide encoded by nucleotides 81-944 of the human heme oxygenase-I nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 3 (SEQ ID NO:1).

27. The method according to claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid molecule has at least about 80% sequence identity to nucleotides 81-944 of the human heme oxygenase-I nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 3 (SEQ ID NO:1) and which encodes a polypeptide having at least about 80% amino acid sequence homology to human heme oxygenase-I polypeptide encoded by said nucleotides 81-944.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 26-27 are pending after entry of the amendments. Claims 26 and 27 have been added. Support is found in the specification on page 15, lines 15-21.

No new matter is added by way of amendment. Favorable consideration of the following comments relative to the outstanding rejections as they may apply to the present claims is respectfully requested for the reasons that follow.